

New WSBA dean assumes duties

Teaching tops list

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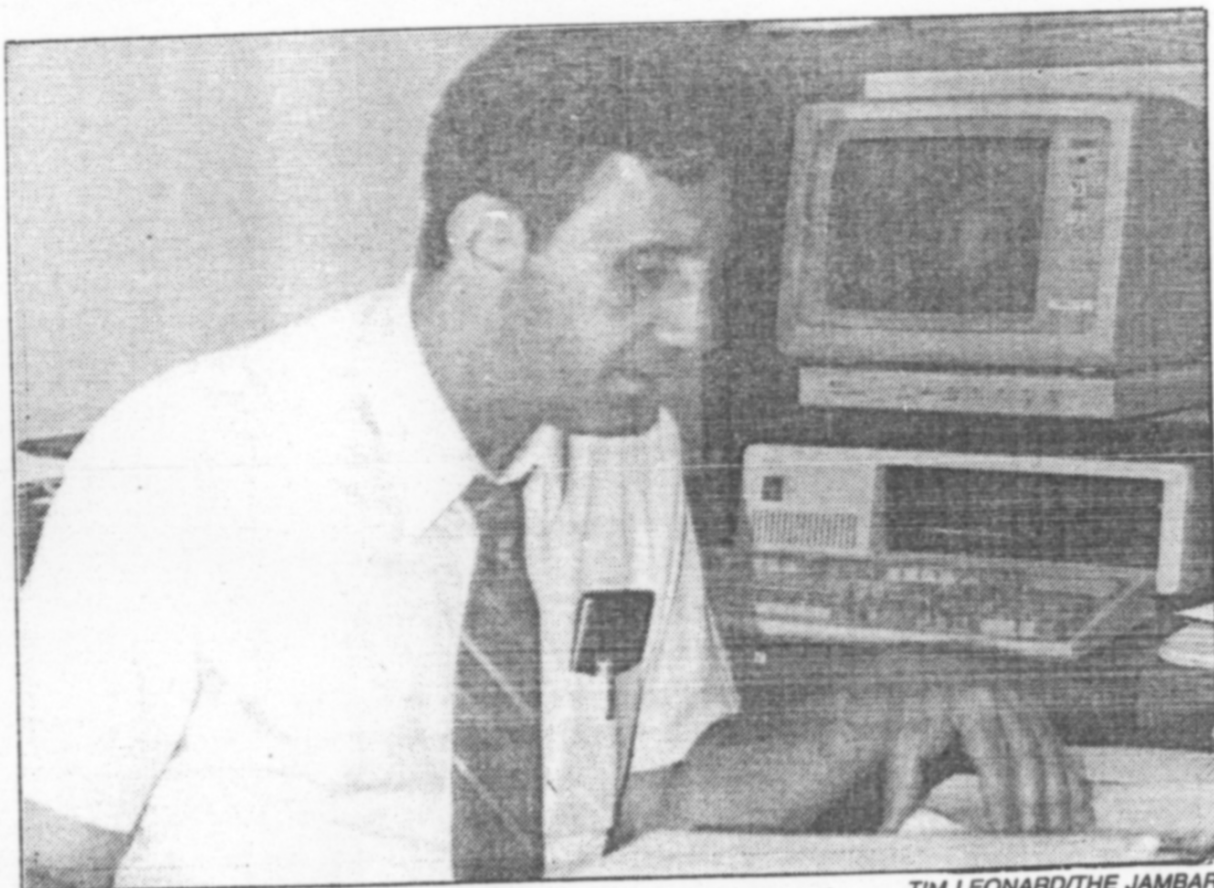
A sense of permanency has filled hallowed halls of the Williamson School of Business Administration dean's office.

Dr. James Cicarelli has begun his duties as the WSBA's new dean succeeding Dr. Frank Seibold who had been serving as interim dean since last July.

"I'm happy to be here," Cicarelli said. "YSU is a first-rate place."

Cicarelli comes to YSU after serving four years as the chair of the department of business administration at State University of New York (SUNY) at Fredonia. He also served on several of the campus committees including academic affairs

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Dr. James Cicarelli

Dean

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and the library advisory board.

The new dean said his years at Fredonia "have been good preparation" for him as he was responsible for directing the activities of the department, which enrolls approximately 20 percent of the undergraduate majors in accounting and business administration degree programs.

"YSU is quite a bit different from where I came from," he said and describes Fredonia as a rural campus one third the size of YSU with very few commuters and a high percentage of part-time students.

At YSU, Cicarelli said, there are "more students, more faculty that are professionally involved" and much more complicated procedures. "I have to learn a lot of things," he said.

While the focus of his predecessor's administration was to inch closer in gaining accreditation for WSBA, Cicarelli plans to concentrate and focus his energy on the school's "interior" before turning attention to "exterior" projects.

During his first year, Cicarelli plans to evaluate the quality of teaching and "what [teachers] are doing in the classroom."

Instead of having the departments he oversees operate as independent units, Cicarelli wants to create a "synergy," meaning that the departments will work together. "I want to make this school more than just three departments," he explained, "and [do] the things that will make us better."

Cicarelli hopes to send a group of WSBA faculty members to a teaching convention at the Miami University of Ohio in order to "renew and revitalize teaching methods."

"I'm usually a strong advocate of long-term planning," Cicarelli said, "but I have no global plan for the next 10 years. I know what I want to do right now."

"My immediate plans are to learn how YSU operates and how we [WSBA] fit in the scheme of things," Cicarelli said.

Cicarelli also sees YSU's role within the economic and social realm of Youngstown and said community looks to the University for "expertise, direction and analysis of alternatives" offered through the various outreach programs.

Cicarelli received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate in economics from the University of Connecticut.

Prior to his position at SUNY-Fredonia, he served as the dean of the school of business administration at St. Bonaventure (N.Y.) University in 1983 and was chair of the department of economics at SUNY-Oswego from 1980-1983. He has previously taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. and at Lewis and Clark College, Lewistown, Idaho.

He has authored three books and numerous magazine and journal articles, is a book review editor with the *Journal of Business Forecasting* and an editorial board member of the *Journal of International Economics and Economic Intergration*.